

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**STARBUCKS UNION CAMPAIGN HITS NYC & LI**  
***72 total shops have filed nationally, 76 NY electeds pledge support***

**New York, NY --** Today, five downstate New York Starbucks locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island filed for union recognition with Workers United NY/NJ Regional Joint Board, an SEIU affiliate, bringing the total number of Starbucks union petitions filed nationally to 72 across 21 states, with 16 shops in New York State alone. These are the first shops to file in the NYC and Metro region and include the Roastery, the largest Starbucks on the East Coast, as well as the first manufacturing plant to file. If successful, approximately 170 workers will gain union representation.

The Campaign, started by Starbucks partners in Buffalo, NY in September, has quickly gained momentum throughout the country with new states and locations joining every week. But it has not been without pushback. Workers have faced increasing retaliation and intimidation in their efforts to unionize, including this week's egregious firing of the entire organizing committee in a Memphis shop. The Memphis campaign had gone public on MLK day in honor of his work on labor rights in their city which led to his assassination.

This retaliation has only encouraged more worker organizing and greater public awareness of union-busting. The downstate NY campaign has already received widespread support from elected officials, with [76 signatories and counting on a public letter](#) taking a stand against union-busting and in favor of workers' rights at the company.

In their own words:

"I have been with Starbucks for almost seven years. I have worked at three stores across two districts with nine different store managers. The problems at Starbucks are not about one particular store or manager but from the way this corporation as a whole is structured. Starbucks claims to have a humanitarian approach to the way they do business. They call us "partners" and create an image that they care about us and that we have a voice and can speak about our concerns. But every time I have raised a concern I have been ignored or vilified. I am tired of being exploited and I am tired of seeing other baristas being chastised when they care about their own safety or about the safety of their families and community. These problems are not new, but they have gotten worse with Covid-19. I am joining the union because we deserve a voice, we matter. We are not cogs in a machine, we are people who deserve to get a say in our work."

— Joselyn Chuquillanqui, [Starbucks #0884](#) Great Neck, NY

“I’ll make a year at my store in three months and I’ve been hearing the unease of both new and tenured partners since I started. Unionizing means we get to have this larger network of support beyond our single store or district. I look forward to understanding the needs of those other partners and helping each other to accomplish our goals. “

– Reese Mercado, Ceasar’s Bay Shopping Center Store #23267, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY

“I’ve worked with this company for three years. When we were dealing with shortages due to the pandemic my manager told me to just work with what I had. I really took that to heart. What we have is a team that works hard and deserves to be heard. We want a fair election, a seat at the table, and an opportunity to work as truly equal partners to improve conditions at our store that all of us have grown to love.” – Rhythm Heaton, Astor Place Store #00825, NY, NY

“The Roastery is Starbucks’ biggest store on the East Coast. I’m a five-year partner. I’ve been at the Roastery for nearly three of those years and I’ve talked to partners in DC, Baltimore, Philly and elsewhere. They talk about how gosh darn cool this place is as a destination, an elevation of what we do, as an example of what Starbucks can be. So that’s what it’s going to be. If we can do it here, you can do it at your store. Every workplace in America should be democratized, and it’s within our power to make that happen.” – Sam LaGow, New York City Reserve Roastery #47906, NY, NY

“As a proud partner of 7 years, I am seeing a shift – Starbucks is no longer the partner-first, progressive company that I joined in 2015. Safety lapses, dwindling management support, stagnant wages and benefits are some of the symptoms of a company losing touch with the voices of hourly partners. By forming a union, we allow those voices to be heard again, and become the people-oriented business Starbucks claims to be. I’m asking Starbucks to live up to its mission and values by putting partners first and supporting a fair election.” – Mark Mao, New York City Reserve Roastery Manufacturing Store #47906, NY, NY

“This is an unstoppable uprising. We are proud to be the union home of Starbucks Workers United. This is the beginning of a long fight and we are ready. The workers are strong and committed, we have widespread support from elected officials and the public, and we are standing strong in the face of corporate union busting, with partners leading the way.” – Julie Kelly, President of Workers United NY/NJ Regional Joint Board

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About: Starbucks Workers United is a union of Starbucks Workers, by Starbucks Workers, for Starbucks Workers, organizing with the support of Workers United.

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